

# Executive Summary

## A. Purpose of the Revised King County Aging Services Funding Policy

The purpose of the proposed revised Aging Services Funding Policy is to update the funding policy that has been in place since 1989, and, per the Human Services Framework Policy Recommendations Report, to provide direction for the County's role in the aging services network. The proposed policy was reviewed and revised in accordance with the implementation guidelines contained in the Final Report: King County Framework Policies for Human Services, September 1999.

The process used to develop the proposed policy involved a number of key steps including the incorporation of stakeholder involvement throughout the entire process. Stakeholder input was sought from a variety of key stakeholders, including service providers, citizens utilizing services, other funders, human service planners and other aging service stakeholders to guide the development of the revised King County Aging Service Funding Policy. In particular, input was sought regarding the needs of seniors throughout King County, types of services actually provided, barriers to receiving or accessing services, as well as King County's role in the aging network. County staff received input via survey tools, interviews and participation in meetings of stakeholders such as the Children and Family Commission, the Regional Planners Forum, and Public Input Forums. Other steps included assessment of the Aging Services Funding Policy against the guidance of the framework policies as well as against the results of countywide and subregional assessments of needs and strengths. In addition, the funding policy was assessed against other resources available to address the needs of seniors as well as against available program evaluation results.

Implementation of the proposed funding policy will result in some funding changes for service providers, beginning in 2002. Section C is a diagram showing a comparison of the current Funding Policy, the proposed Funding Policy and the budget implications of the proposed policy, if adopted. The proposed funding policy provides guidance on how the County should direct increases and decreases in Current Expense funding for aging services. Consistent with the Human Services Framework Policies, the proposed policy also defines the County's role as a local service provider and advocate for services. This role is similar to that of municipalities in incorporated cities. Specifically, the County has a role in supporting local services such as senior centers, Adult Day Health and Adult Day Care, and other services that increase access to a broad array of services for unincorporated county residents. The proposed Aging Services Funding Policy was developed through a King County interdepartmental effort, and data, information and input were sought from a number of sources. For clarification, descriptions of terms and services referred to throughout this document can be found in Appendix A.

## B. Key Findings

- King County's current role as local provider of aging services for unincorporated residents is appropriate, according to the parameters set forth in the Framework Policies.
- Continued funding of currently funded senior centers is appropriate, as long as the centers serve unincorporated residents.
- Continued funding of Adult Day Health and Adult Day Care is consistent with the County's local responsibility for unincorporated residents.

- As emphasized by stakeholders and enumerated in the Framework Policies, the County should strengthen its advocacy role with regional funders for both, incorporated cities and unincorporated areas.
- Advocacy is needed to obtain Medicaid reimbursement levels for Adult Day services that fully reimburse providers for services.
- Consistent with the Framework Policies' prohibition on use of CX/CJ funds for services that benefit incorporated residents only, the County must cease funding aging programs serving only Shoreline residents.

Further review is needed to determine the extent to which needed aging services are reaching unincorporated residents.